

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 28, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) and 102 (e) as being anticipated by Worley (US 2003/0054141).

Applicant has amended claim 1 of the present application to traverse the rejection based on prior art. This amendment has support at, for example, page 6 of the Applicant's specification. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Applicant has amended the preambles of dependent claims 3-12 to replace "A" with "The" in view of antecedent basis for the recited membrane material. No new matter has been added. Applicant has corrected other informalities in claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11 and 12.


Worley discloses the use of non-encapsulated phase change materials. These phase change materials are not cross-linked in an elastomeric structure as addressed in Applicant's amended claims. In the present invention the phase change material is liquefied and then applied to the elastomeric material while the phase change material is in a liquid stage. During curing of the elastomeric material the phase change material becomes cross-linked into the structure. The phase change material

creates a continuum within the elastomeric structure. The phase change material changes its physical state from liquid to solid and vice versa which causes a change in translucency. Because of the continuous distribution of the phase change material within the elastomeric material, the light transmission of the whole coating layer changes when this phase change occurs.

In Worley the phase change material is not cross-linked into the polymeric compound and the coating is applied discontinuously on the surface of the carrier fabric. Therefore, no change in translucency is experienced.

The claims as amended are now believed to be in condition for allowance and early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara Pause", is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Pause